AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A boom (1A)~~, especially~~ for containing ~~oil spills and/or other similar~~ pollution ~~at sea, in rivers or~~ on water surfaces, comprising an elongate body with ~~consisting of~~ an element having positive buoyancy relative to the surrounding water ~~medium~~, so that a freeboard (5) is provided, and a hanging skirt (6), which boom (1A) is of the type that may be ~~is usually~~ towed behind towing vessels (2) so that the boom (1A) basically forms a U-shape having side arms (4) that define a front opening (10) between them, which arms extend from a rear area ~~or an~~ apex (7) when there is tension on ~~the towing vessels or mooring (2) pulls at~~ the free ends of the arms of the boom (1A) in order to tow the boom (1A), characterised in that the skirt (6) is provided with a draught that varies from a minimum size ~~or depth~~ in the area at the boom apex (7) to a maximum size ~~or depth~~ at the free towing ends (15) of the side arms (4) of the boom (1A).

2. (Original) A boom according to claim 1, characterised in that the boom (1A) is produced in such manner that it can be split at the apex area (7), thereby producing two substantially identical boom halves, each of which can be used separately as a boom.

3. (Currently amended) A boom according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterised in that the boom arms (4) have different lengths.

4. (Currently amended) A boom according to claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 – 3~~, characterised in that the boom arms (4) can be sectioned so that units are provided

which can function separately as an independent boom (1A), ~~or optionally~~ and may be joined together.

5. (Currently amended) A boom according to claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 – 4~~, characterised in that the draught of the skirt (6) varies in at least one of a linear, ~~linearly, or optionally in~~ a concave or stepped manner, or ~~as~~ a combination of variations.

6. (Currently amended) A boom according to claim 1 ~~one of claims 1, 3 – 5~~, characterised in that only one of the arms of the boom (1A) extends ~~extending~~ out from the apex (7) when [[is]] in use~~, for example, for collecting, channelling or guiding oil~~.

7. (Currently amended) A boom according to claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 – 6~~, characterised in that the skirt (6) is made integral with the boom apex (7), the skirt being made having a greater draught at the apex (7) than in the adjacent portions which are made having a minimum draught before the skirt (6) again increases in draught.

8. (Currently amended) A boom according to claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 – 7~~, characterised in that the skirt has a minimum draught of about 0.1 metres and a maximum draught of 3 metres.

9. (Currently amended) A boom according to claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 – 8~~, characterised in that the boom arms (4) or the whole boom (1A) with two boom arms (4) is moored in a ~~river or other~~ current of water.

10. (Currently amended) The use of the boom according to claim 1 ~~claims 1 – 9~~, connected to at least one of an inline skimmer, apex boom or the like at the boom apex (7) for collecting oil spills or the like.

11. (New) A boom according to claim 2, characterised in that the boom arms (4) have different lengths.

12. (New) A boom according to claim 2, characterised in that the boom arms (4) can be sectioned so that units are provided which can function separately as an independent boom (1A) and be joined together.

13. (New) A boom according to claim 3, characterised in that the boom arms (4) can be sectioned so that units are provided which can function separately as an independent boom (1A) and be joined together.

14. (New) A boom according to claim 2, characterised in that the draught of the skirt (6) varies in at least one of a linear, a concave or stepped manner, or ~~as~~ a combination of variations.

15. (New) A boom according to claim 3, characterised in that the draught of the skirt (6) varies in at least one of a linear, a concave or stepped manner, or as a combination of variations.

16. (New) A boom according to claim 4, characterised in that the draught of the skirt (6) varies in at least one of a linear, a concave or stepped manner, or as a combination of variations.

17. (New) A boom according to claim 3, characterised in that only one of the arms of the boom (1A) extends out from the apex (7) when in use.

18. (New) A boom according to claim 4, characterised in that only one of the arms of the boom (1A) extends out from the apex (7) when in use.

19. (New) A boom according to claim 5, characterised in that only one of the arms of the boom (1A) extends out from the apex (7) when in use.

20. (New) A boom according to claim 2, characterised in that the skirt (6) is made integral with the boom apex (7), the skirt being made having a greater draught at the apex (7) than in the adjacent portions which are made having a minimum draught before the skirt (6) again increases in draught.

21. (New) A boom according to claim 3, characterised in that the skirt (6) is made integral with the boom apex (7), the skirt being made having a greater draught at the apex (7) than in the adjacent portions which are made having a minimum draught before the skirt (6) again increases in draught.

22. (New) A boom according to claim 4, characterised in that the skirt (6) is made integral with the boom apex (7), the skirt being made having a greater draught at the apex (7) than in the adjacent portions which are made having a minimum draught before the skirt (6) again increases in draught.

23. (New) A boom according to claim 5, characterised in that the skirt (6) is made integral with the boom apex (7), the skirt being made having a greater draught at the apex (7) than in the adjacent portions which are made having a minimum draught before the skirt (6) again increases in draught.

24. (New) A boom according to claim 6, characterised in that the skirt (6) is made integral with the boom apex (7), the skirt being made having a greater draught at the apex (7) than in the adjacent portions which are made having a minimum draught before the skirt (6) again increases in draught.

25. (New) A boom according to claim 2, characterised in that the skirt has a minimum draught of about 0.1 metres and a maximum draught of 3 metres.

26. (New) A boom according to claim 3, characterised in that the skirt has a minimum draught of about 0.1 metres and a maximum draught of 3 metres.

27. (New) A boom according to claim 4, characterised in that the skirt has a minimum draught of about 0.1 metres and a maximum draught of 3 metres.

28. (New) A boom according to claim 5, characterised in that the skirt has a minimum draught of about 0.1 metres and a maximum draught of 3 metres.

29. (New) A boom according to claim 6, characterised in that the skirt has a minimum draught of about 0.1 metres and a maximum draught of 3 metres.

30. (New) A boom according to claim 7, characterised in that the skirt has a minimum draught of about 0.1 metres and a maximum draught of 3 metres.

31. (New) A boom according to claim 2, characterised in that the boom arms (4) or the whole boom (1A) with two boom arms (4) is moored in a current of water.

32. (New) A boom according to claim 3, characterised in that the boom arms (4) or the whole boom (1A) with two boom arms (4) is moored in a current of water.

33. (New) A boom according to claim 4, characterised in that the boom arms (4) or the whole boom (1A) with two boom arms (4) is moored in a current of water.

34. (New) A boom according to claim 5, characterised in that the boom arms (4) or the whole boom (1A) with two boom arms (4) is moored in a current of water.

35. (New) A boom according to claim 6, characterised in that the boom arms (4) or the whole boom (1A) with two boom arms (4) is moored in a current of water.

36. (New) A boom according to claim 7, characterised in that the boom arms (4) or the whole boom (1A) with two boom arms (4) is moored in a current of water.

37. (New) A boom according to claim 8, characterised in that the boom arms (4) or the whole boom (1A) with two boom arms (4) is moored in a current of water.

38. (New) The use of the boom according to claim 2, connected to an inline skimmer, apex boom or the like at the boom apex (7) for collecting oil spills or the like.

39. (New) The use of the boom according to claim 3, connected to at least one of an inline skimmer, apex boom or the like at the boom apex (7) for collecting oil spills or the like.

40. (New) The use of the boom according to claim 4, connected to at least one of an inline skimmer, apex boom or the like at the boom apex (7) for collecting oil spills or the like.

41. (New) The use of the boom according to claim 5, connected to at least one of an inline skimmer, apex boom or the like at the boom apex (7) for collecting oil spills or the like.

42. (New) The use of the boom according to claim 6, connected to at least one of an inline skimmer, apex boom or the like at the boom apex (7) for collecting oil spills or the like.

43. (New) The use of the boom according to claim 7, connected to at least one of an inline skimmer, apex boom or the like at the boom apex (7) for collecting oil spills or the like.

44. (New) The use of the boom according to claim 8, connected to at least one of an inline skimmer, apex boom or the like at the boom apex (7) for collecting oil spills or the like.

45. (New) The use of the boom according to claim 9, connected to at least one of an inline skimmer, apex boom or the like at the boom apex (7) for collecting oil spills or the like.